

world is permitted to compete with product of our own American birds.

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

The San Francisco Call says: "Arguments in favor of civil service pensions are so conclusive that the matter has now assumed the shape of a discussion of details of the measure which Congress will be asked to enact. Pensions in some shape have become a matter of necessity, if the efficiency of the service is to be maintained."

If our contemporary is of opinion that civil service pensions are an assured fact, it labors under a tremendous misunderstanding of popular sentiment in the nation. The tide of feeling against pensions of all descriptions whatsoever is rising rapidly. The military pension system is honeycombed with the most rotten variety of graft and dishonesty. Deserters and camp followers are now receiving pensions equal to those given men who fought beneath the flag as brave men, and designing women and adventuresses are drawing immense sums from the government because they sold themselves to old men in the hope of receiving pensions when their senile husbands had gone to a just reward.

The Congress of the United States is now spending more than \$160,000,000 each year for pensions. Most of these pensions arise out of a war that took place half a century ago, and yet for pensions the government is paying more now than it did twenty-five years ago. The history of war pensions is a colossal chapter of graft and theft, and the cowardice and connivance of a Republican Congress is its author. Yet the cry goes up, "More!" Read the Northern press, and you will read the pleas of veterans of the "Home Guard" for more money, because they "defended the nation." Men who were conspicuously absent from the army in the sixties have fled themselves into military fame.

Yet the civil service employees are clamoring for pensions. Such a demand is a public outrage. Compliance with such a demand would be the last step in the most hellish system of hold-ups that the nation has ever had to contend with.

There are in round numbers 100,000 civil service employees. That is a civil army one-fifth of the size of the Confederate Army and a large proportion of the size of the Federal Army in the War Between the States. With members of this body retiring in large numbers every year, and their places being as promptly filled, one may get a glimmering idea of what a tremendous financial burden this would impose upon the national government.

Every year it would cost the nation more than it did the preceding year. In twenty-five years the present military pension roll would look like the widow's mite in comparison with the civil service pension roll.

So it will be seen that this proposition is a predacious attempt to steal millions of the public money.

Why should there be civil service pensions?

What justification is there for such a proposition?

Is there any more reason for a military service pension than there is for a civil service pension?

There is no sound reason or justification for such a system of pensions. Why pension civil service employees and refuse to pension the employees of any business establishment, as well as old people generally in the United States? Why discriminate between these three classes. The statement that civil service employees ought to be pensioned because they have spent their lives in the service of the government is an outrageous fiction founded in falsehood. As soldier or sailor is given a pension on the theory that he was willing to risk all he had for his country, even his life, but the civil service employee risks nothing, is not an active patriot, and has done nothing to deserve a pension any more than any other old person who has reached the limit of his laboring power.

The entire proposition is unsound. It is the whim of the loafer, the public parasite, the improvident idler, who believes that the government owes him a living. The establishment of a civil service pension list would be on the part of Congress an act of criminal misappropriation, a stupendous national blunder.

MR. TAFT'S "STYLE."

George Harvey is inclined at times to be hypercritical. In a recent number of his "Journal of Civilization," he said, speaking of Mr. Taft's speech at the Conservation Congress in St. Paul:

"The President has not the literary gift, nor has he the oratorical gift. He is not a fine writer, hardly even a good writer, and he is not an eloquent speaker. That (what?) is unfortunate, because otherwise he might have put his St. Paul conservation speech into a form that would have attracted more readers and that particular speech deserves a very wide reading indeed."

It is clearly within the Constitutional rights of Colonel Harvey to attack Mr. Taft's parts of speech, to discredit his art in writing and to underweigh his gifts of oratory; but in doing these things Colonel Harvey should take heed lest he himself fall into errors of composition. For example, we doubt that with all his alleged lack of writing facility, Mr. Taft ever "composed" any sentence quite so bad as this which we make bold to take from the Harvey criticism:

"Pointedly declining the opportunity to deal in pleasing generalities or sensational political allusions, the President proceeded instead to show precisely what conservation means, what the government has to conserve, what has been done already, what the present laws are, and what it is proposed to do, and what laws it is proposed to pass, in the future."

This is what the colored member of the South Carolina Constitutional Convention would probably call "a bucketful of words." Naturally, the law "it is proposed to pass" must be passed "in the future," and we submit that

"in the future" is mere surplusage. Besides, Colonel Harvey in his criticism of Mr. Taft's style pays absolutely no attention to his own tenases. In this sentence he uses the imperfect form of the verb "proceed" and in the next sentence, and in the rest of his sentences continuing his discussion of the same subject, he employs the present tense. Mr. Taft "proceeded," and then he "takes up," he "dodges nothing," he "sophisticates nothing," he "makes all as clear as he can, and for that purpose his plain style is efficient (probably a printer's blunder for "effective")—more efficient, perhaps, than a more ornate or impassioned manner would have been."

Starting with the statement that Mr. Taft "is not a fine writer, hardly even a good writer, and he is not an eloquent speaker," Colonel Harvey concludes that "one cannot read it (Mr. Taft's speech) without acquiring a clearer notion of the real problems and difficulties of the conservation movement than a ton of ordinary conservation oratory would yield."

It appears to an innocent bystander that Colonel Harvey establishes Mr. Taft's claim to the possession of the faculty of good writing, the art of good writing being the ability, within the ordinary rules of grammatical construction, to make one's meaning clear.

TAIL WAGGING DOG.

The Independence League has nominated John J. Hooper for Governor of New York, and William Randolph Hearst for Lieutenant-Governor. This is a case of the tail wagging the dog. The Independence League was organized by Mr. Hearst for Mr. Hearst's political purposes. Without his open purse and his two newspapers it would not live a day. It would be interesting to know how much it has cost him to keep it going and why it has attracted so many members.

Mr. Hearst is a strong man, but wholly unsafe man, the fomentor of all vainglorious and selfish creatures, who in all his work for the public never loses an opportunity for advertising himself and his political virtues. It was expected that he would give his support to Stimson, the Republican candidate, directly, and there will be a show of surprise on the part of his Republican allies at the course things have taken. There is not the least possibility of the election of the Independence ticket; but the Republicans will welcome it to the field in the hope that it will attract many Democratic voters and to that extent at least reduce the majority against Stimson.

Hereafter, Mr. Hearst should be cut off from the Democratic congregation; he has read himself out of the party and should be kept out now for all time. For him to organize and direct the movements of the Independence League is the basest political treachery, and should be so regarded by the Democrats all over the country. There is no objection to Mr. Hearst building up his own political machine—Debs has his party, Mahoney has his party, Swallow has his party, and there is no reason why Hearst should not have his party; but never again should he be permitted to plead his Democracy or participate in the direction of its affairs.

AMHERST STRIDES FORWARD.

The little county of Amherst usually takes a big view of things. In the matter of good roads, it has set a splendid standard for the other ninety-nine counties of Virginia. Though it already possesses some of the best roadways in this Commonwealth, the people of Amherst met in convention on Tuesday, and instead of requesting an election on the question of issuing \$120,000 in road bonds, they increased the amount to \$135,000. This was a delightful surprise to the advocates of better thoroughfares.

Amherst sets the pace in many respects when it comes to the matter of good roads sentiment. The action of the convention in requesting the bond issue was unanimous. If there were opponents of the movement, they did not put in an appearance at the convention. The meeting was entirely harmonious. Ninety per cent. of the total number of delegates were present. Only two of the precincts were unrepresented, and delegates had been chosen from these two. The delegates present doubtless reflected the sentiment of the people who elected them to membership in the convention.

Unusual success has attended Amherst in its efforts for better roads. It has solved that most difficult local good roads question—the distribution of the roads among the various districts of the county. A month ago the evidences pointed to trouble in Amherst on this very question, but the delegates who came to the convention were filled with a happy spirit of compromise. A committee was appointed to settle this question of distribution of the roads, and it came back with a unanimous report. Instead of a narrow feeling of selfishness, a liberal and broad-minded spirit prevailed in the convention.

This is not the first effort Amherst has made in the direction of good roads. If this bond issue is approved at the election in the county—and we see no reason to think that it will not be approved—Amherst will have expended more than \$200,000 for permanent road improvement. It will mean that sixty miles of good roads will have been constructed in Amherst.

The Lynchburg News well says: "Lynchburg experiences a keen interest in the so very encouraging condition. With reference especially to her neighboring counties of Amherst, Campbell and Bedford, rural advance in good road work, assumes almost the nature of a valuable Lynchburg asset, as very directly and immediately does it facilitate communication between city and county, and so certainly does it tend to increase land values in nearby rural sections."

If these fine roadways in Amherst are such an asset of the wealthy and

great city of Lynchburg, why does Lynchburg not invest something in the construction of such roads? If these better thoroughfares bring trade into Lynchburg, it seems to us the part of wisdom for Lynchburg to contribute its mite toward the good work? Just across the James from Lynchburg is one of the best stretches of improved highway in the South, and it is used by Lynchburg citizens extensively—in fact, some of the Lynchburg motorists have been quite extravagant in their attitude toward the speed limit on these roads. It does seem to us that Lynchburg, with all its wealth, ought to do one of two things: build good roads for herself, or help pay for those of Amherst which are used and enjoyed so freely and so inexpensively by the citizens of Lynchburg.

The most important point is this, however, every county can study Amherst's example with profit. If every county in the Old Dominion would imitate the pace set by the small, but courageous and progressive and broad-minded county of Amherst, what a tremendous impetus would be given to the progress of Virginia!

HUYLER.

To millions of people in every part of this country the name "Huyler" has meant nothing more than the patronymic of a manufacturer of sweetmeats. To thousands who knew the man, John S. Huyler was a fine type of the large-hearted Christian gentleman. Of a deeply religious nature, he practiced equity and charity in his business, and his employees now sincerely rise up and call him blessed.

Here is the simple tribute of an unknown saleswoman in one of his stores published in the New York Times:

He was never too busy to have a cheerful "Good morning" and a kind and encouraging word for the humblest of his people. It was his custom to give his girls at the beginning of the summer two or three shirtwaists (which means a lot to a working girl) and at Thanksgiving every year, a turkey and a week's salary and a two-pound box of candy. He offered to all membership in the Young Women's Christian Association and the privilege of taking up music or any other course they desired, free of charge or expense to them.

There are only a few of the deeds of this godlike man, and there are no more sincere mourners to-day than his old employees.

Though he accumulated millions, he never lost his simplicity and democracy of manner, he never surrounded himself with equipages and establishments. Much of his time in later years he spent in the mountains of North Carolina, living plainly and cherishing as his best friend a poor, but godly Baptist preacher. His life long, Mr. Huyler practiced the principles of Christianity as completely as mortal man may.

It is said that he followed the Scriptural mandate in giving one-tenth of all he made for religious purposes. He was a truly good man.

THE WEST AND THE EAST.

If the Payne tariff bill is all that the Saratoga Republican convention says it is, the Indianapolis News wonders what insurgency is all about, and why Cannon should not have his party; but never again should he be permitted to plead his Democracy or participate in the direction of its affairs.

Butler Ames has been nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Fifth Massachusetts District. In accepting the nomination he said that he is a Progressive, that he is "opposed to Speaker Cannon, because I think Congress should elect a Speaker of to-day, and not one of the past." That is exactly what Congress is going to do, and it looks as if his name will be Clark. It would be more like the right thing, however, if the people of the Fifth Massachusetts would send somebody to Washington who would represent them better than Butler Ames has represented them or can represent them.

Better men than "Fiddling Bob" Taylor have been spared from the United States Senate without serious loss to the country.

Tim has been succeeded by Ez as chairman of the New York Republican State Committee. Strange, isn't it, that such good Bible names should have been given to such unruly boys?

The Government sharps are worrying now over the question, "Is a hen a bird?" There is no doubt about it; but what we should like to know is, is a man who flies a chicken?

It was reported last week that the drought in Maryland had materially reduced the supply of milk. Doubtless.

Real French Drip Coffee can not be made unless the coffee itself is prepared, blended and roasted according to the famous French method. Use

For French Drip Coffee For all around family use

THE REILLY TAYLOR CO. NEW ORLEANS, U.S.A.

of his, one in the British Museum, the other in the Vatican at Rome.

An indenture signed by Guy Fawkes, in 1592, of the Gunpowder Plot fame, sold for \$1,755 a few years ago. There are only two autographs of this arch-conspirator in existence.

Extraordinarily rare are the autographs of Mary, the ill-starred Queen of Scots. A Boston woman—the celebrated Mrs. Jack Gardner—possesses one specimen in the form of an autograph presentation inscription written by her in a French Book of Hours. This sold for \$1,125 in 1887. An unsigned letter of Mary, written in 1562 and containing fourteen pages, was sold in 1905 for \$4,500.

Turning to the United States, it is to be noted that the autographs of Andrew, Nathan Hale and Thomas Lynch, Jr., are the most highly prized. Three of Hale's letters sold in 1892 for \$1,275, \$1,125 and \$1,100. To-day they are worth three times as much.

The manuscript of an address delivered by Major Andre at the John Street Theatre, in New York, in 1779, was sold for \$1,710 in 1892. J. Pierpont Morgan gave \$2,500 for one of the three Andre letters extant. The letter which he bought was written by Andre to Benedict Arnold in 1780, and is "the only surviving specimen of the correspondence which passed between the ill-fated English deputy adjutant-general and the American traitor in relation to the surrender of West Point."

But who was Thomas Lynch, "Jun.," and why is his autograph valuable? He was a South Carolinian, and, with the exception of his colleague, Edward Rutledge, the youngest of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776 he went to Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father, and three years later he was drowned at sea. Only one letter written by him in the thirty years of his life is in existence. It was sold by Augustin Daly to Dr. Thomas Emmet for \$5,250 in 1900. It is now in the New York Public Library, valued at \$10,000. As Mr. Roden says, "Any one who can find another letter written and signed by 'T. Lynch, Jun.," can make easy provision against the vicissitudes of old age. No letter was found among Lynch's family papers, and the examination of the books used by him at Eton unearthed only a few signatures, about twenty in number. The name 'Lynch' alone, cut from one of these schoolbooks, is worth \$100; the full name, preserved intact in the original book, sold for \$310." It should be noted in this connection that American autograph collectors, as a general rule, are anxious to secure the signatures of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, which can be done at a fairly reasonable cost. The rarity of the Lynch autograph is the one obstacle that stands between the collector and a complete collection of the signatures of the signers of the immortal charter of American liberty.

What a strange company is here gathered together! Two poets, a dramatist-scholar, a writer of fiction, a pope, a conspirator, an unhappy Queen, the "two martyr spies" of the Revolution and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. To the autograph collector fame plays strange tricks!

One of the disadvantages of the cement sidewalk is that it is used as a rink by the roller skaters.

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WOMEN

is the expectant mother's greatest help, the muscles and tendons for the unusual strain, renders the ligaments supple and elastic, aids in expanding the skin and flesh fibres, and strengthens all the membranes and tissues. It is especially valuable where the breasts are troubled and danger when the little one comes. Women who use Mother's Friend are assured of passing the crisis with safety. It is for sale at drug stores. Write for free book for expectant mothers.

BRADFELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

MOTHER'S FRIEND

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Engagement Rings. Please answer the following questions in your column: 1. Will worn stones are engagement rings usually set? 2. Is a ring set with a birthstone appropriate for an engagement? CORRESPONDENT.

1. Whatever stone the sentiment of the parties concerned favors. There is no set rule. 2. Yes. This is an especially appropriate idea; only some birthstones are suitable, however, some of them being amethyst, sapphire and diamond, emerald, sardonyx, opal, tourmaline, ruby.

Question of Reconsideration. Please inform me when is a member of a body unable to move to reconsider a motion passed when conditions hold as in the case I shall state: Suppose member was not present at meeting which passed measure, but comes to next meeting, can't he reconsider or move to reconsider? I know one must vote with majority to move reconsideration, but how about one who was absent and who objects at next meeting? We can find no direct statement of parliamentary law on this point. By implication, we should think that an absent member could not move reconsideration, as we construe strictly the correct principle you state.

Fair Entries. Will you please tell me where I can find the office where I can have my goods put on for the State Fair, which will come off very soon now, as I would like to get my work in for the 14th of this month. Kindly tell me at once, so I may know what to do. EMMA WEACH.

We regret that you are too late. The fair opened the day after your letter was mailed.

Cost of Chestnuts. Please answer this: If 500 chestnuts cost \$15, what would one chestnut cost? We answer no mathematical queries.

"FAKE" COUNT ROBBS FELLOW VOYAGERS

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONTENOY. I may be remembered that in the early part of last month dispatches were received from Europe to the effect that a Count Tchernadoff had been robbed of bank notes to the extent of \$80,000 and of a quantity of valuable jewels while traveling on board the Lloyd steamship "Prince of Hohenzollern," from Trieste to Cattaro.

It was added that the count was a special envoy of the Czar to the celebration at Cetinje of the Golden Jubilee of the reign of Nicholas of Montenegro, and of the latter's golden wedding, and that the jewels consisted of presents from the Czar and the two Czarninas to the new-fledged King of the Black Mountains, to his consort, to his children, and to his principal dignitaries of his household, in connection with the double event.

The robbery of the count created a great sensation; so much so, indeed, that it completely threw into the shade and obscured the fact that there had been numerous other robberies on board, and that a number of passengers had been deprived of both money and jewels on the same trip. But, of course, the captain and his officers confined their attention almost wholly to the robbery of the Czar's gifts.

It was, however, the fact that the subject of vigorous diplomatic representations, which might end in their dismissal.

None of the stolen effects were recovered, and when the count landed at Cattaro, in order to make his way up to Cetinje, he in a manner consoled the captain by thanking him warmly for the trouble which he had taken, though in vain, to discover the culprit, and to recover the money and jewels with which he had been entrusted, at the same time presenting him, in token of his regard, with a gold watch and a pencil case, which he declared had been used to sign the treaty of San Stefano, before Constantinople, in 1877.

On board the other passengers on board had to submit to a most searching examination of their cabins, of their clothes, and of their luggage, and to the dread of subjecting to any such indignity the Czar's special ambassador, the chief victim, whose alleged losses were superior to those of all the other victims put together.

The noise made by the robbery of a Russian special ambassador, and the disappearance of the jeweled gifts sent by the Czar and Czarnina to the King and Queen of Montenegro, created a great stir, and was naturally carried over to this country. Nowhere did it excite more astonishment than at Cetinje, where none of the Russian dignitaries present knew anything of a special mission headed by a Count Tchernadoff, since it was Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaitch, one of the two Imperial Russian sons-in-law of the King of Montenegro, who had been commissioned by his cousin, the Czar, to represent him at the festivities at Cetinje, and to present the jeweled gifts to the King of Montenegro; these comprised a sapphire study by Giovanni, a regemmed baton of field marshal of the Muscovite army.

Of course the count never turned up at Cetinje. The Austrian police became suspicious. The captain of the "Prince of Hohenzollern" was summoned to Vienna, and there, in the "Rogues' Gallery" of the police, he was recognized the Russian passenger who had given him so much trouble, and who turned out to be one of the most bold and daring swindlers in Europe.

The most extraordinary thing about the man is that he rarely takes the trouble to change his name, which is Alexander Tchernadoff (formerly Krakowski), made his way abroad; was convicted of fraud in Germany, where he served a six months' term of imprisonment; and then turned up in Paris, where he swindled people right and left. When Paris became too hot to hold him, he betook himself to Switzerland, and there, in the "Rogues' Gallery" of the police, he was recognized the Russian passenger who had given him so much trouble, and who turned out to be one of the most bold and daring swindlers in Europe.

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No married woman's happiness is complete without children; she yearns with the deeper longings of her nature for the joys of motherhood. But women who bear children should prepare for the coming of baby by properly caring for their physical systems. Mother's Friend is a remedy which prepares the muscles and tendons for the unusual strain, renders the ligaments supple and elastic, aids in expanding the skin and flesh fibres, and strengthens all the membranes and tissues. It is especially valuable where the breasts are troubled and danger when the little one comes. Women who use Mother's Friend are assured of passing the crisis with safety. It is for sale at drug stores. Write for free book for expectant mothers.

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Capital . . \$1,000,000.00 Surplus . . \$ 600,000.00

WM. H. PALMER, President. JOHN S. ELLETT, Vice-President. WM. M. HILL, Vice-President. J. W. SINTON, Vice-President. JULIEN H. HILL, Cashier.

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